



Photos by Zachary Strain | Daily Texan Staff



A technology-driven oil boom in the Permian Basin is changing the nature of the 2.1 million acres of University Lands, which will pull in an estimated \$1 billion this year. On the heels of a \$70 million lease sale Wednesday, The Daily Texan examines the myriad operations on the land and how the West is changing.

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Video story at [bit.ly/dtvid](http://bit.ly/dtvid)

# Cheap leases may provide revenue

By Jordan Rudner

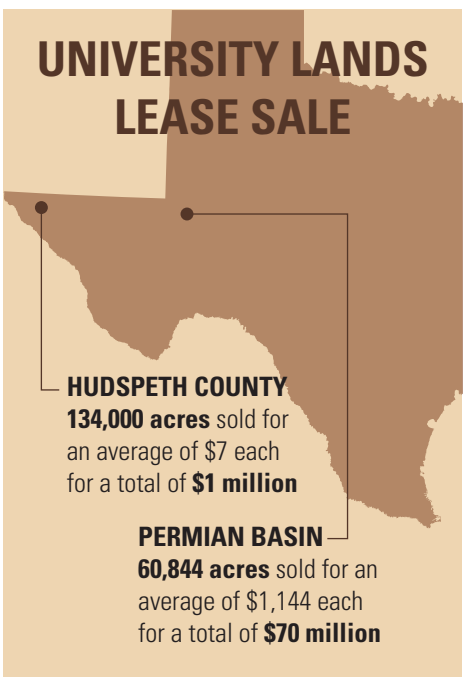
University Lands, a division of the UT System's Office of Business Affairs, generated \$1 million by leasing land in far West Texas on Wednesday. This sale is dwarfed by the \$70 million sale of oil and gas leases in the Permian Basin on the same day, but the \$1 million might prove to be a flag signaling University Lands' newest revenue stream.

University Lands manages 2.1 million acres that together make up the Permanent University Fund, a state endowment for public higher education. The division's semi-annual lease sales typically focus on the oil-rich acreage University Lands manages in the central Permian Basin, and on Wednesday, the 60,844 acres up for lease in the basin went for an average \$1,144 each.

The areas owned in Hudspeth County, near El Paso, get less attention — they haven't been leased since the 1990s — and on Wednesday, 134,000 acres were leased for a little more than \$7 each. The reason for this difference in value is that Hudspeth County has not historically been rich in oil production. But Scott Kelley, the UT System executive vice chancellor for business affairs, said because of technological advancements and the popularization of techniques including fracking, some investors are looking at the unexplored lands with new confidence that they will be able to strike black gold.

"[The land in Hudspeth County] isn't a very attractive area, and there hasn't been much production there," Kelley said. "But there were some interested parties who were willing to take

SALE continues on page 5



# Oil industry brings employment, growth, small business challenges

By Alexa Ura

MIDLAND — For many years, the landscape in West Texas was mostly uniform with dusty lots and artifacts of operating machinery left behind from a previous oil boom in the area. A generation removed from that boom, new oil rigs line roadways in the Permian Basin, where increased production will help the UT System bring in close to \$1 billion in oil and gas revenue this year. With a technologically driven oil-production boom, Midland's landscape is transforming as the city works to build an infrastructure to support thousands of new

residents while reaping the economic benefits associated with increased production. The UT System is also benefiting from the economic boom, and it doesn't show signs of slowing down as dozens of companies have showed renewed interest in chasing the oil reserves on the 1.4 million acres the System has in the region. Last October marked the first time land managed by the UT System produced more than 3 million barrels of oil since 1972 at the peak of the last oil production boom in the Permian Basin, said Jim Benson, executive director of University Lands. University Lands, which has a Midland-based office,

is responsible for managing the System's 2.1 million acres that make up the Permanent University Fund. The surge in production is part of a massive oil boom under the Wolfcamp Shale formation accessible through drilling technologies and techniques — horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing — that were not commonly used during the last boom in the area. "This kind of changed everybody's mind-sets to, 'Now, we can go produce these source rocks or unconventional plays,'" Benson said. "That is what's happening in the resurrection of the Permian Basin." With 50 oil and gas rigs actively drilling, 25-50 wells

being assembled and 500 more permits waiting to be built on its land, Benson said University Lands still stands to increase its profits in the next two years as oil and gas companies leasing on the System's land in the Permian Basin move into full manufacturing mode by 2015. "Even though there's not a lot of manufacturing, there is a lot of capital expense, and our revenues are increasing in terms of the royalty rate," Benson said. "Two years down the road, provided oil and gas prices stay as they are, we'll make more than we did in the previous years." The Texas Railroad Commission defines the Permian Basin as an oil and gas

producing area in West Texas 250 by 300 miles in area. Benson said he expects University Lands to receive \$850 million in royalties from production on leased land on top of the \$112 million the System received in lease sale profits in the last fiscal year. In the last five years, the number of drilling permits approved by the Railroad Commission in the Permian Basin has almost doubled, increasing from 4,703 in 2007 to 9,335 in 2012, according to Railroad Commission figures. Oil and gas lease sales first skyrocketed during the September 2010 sale as the boom took off with total profits increasing during the following

two sales, including a record high sale in September 2011 that brought in more than \$310 million in profits. The University of Texas Investment Management Company invests the sale profits and royalties and returns on investment make up the Available University Fund, which benefits the UT and Texas A&M systems. Last year, \$205 million of UT-Austin's \$2.34 billion 2012-2013 operating budget came from the fund. Profits from subsequent sales decreased substantially because fewer acres were available to be leased as companies jumped to lease in

BOOM continues on page 6



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FRAMES | FEATURED PHOTO



Christine Perez practices aerial moves in the Mixed Aerials 1 class at Sky Candy on Thursday evening.

Chelsea Purgahn | Daily Texan Staff

NEWS BRIEFLY

Concealed carry bill disputed by UT faculty

UT administrators continue their opposition to allowing concealed handguns on campus after a House committee approved a bill Thursday to permit licensees to carry on university grounds.

The Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee voted in favor of the bill, authored by state Rep. Allen Fletcher, R-Cypress, who added an amendment that would allow universities to opt out of permitting concealed handguns inside buildings.

UT spokesman Gary Susswein said administrators had not looked at Fletcher’s proposal but reiterated President William Powers Jr.’s opposition to allowing guns on campus.

“We do not believe the college campus is an appropriate place for guns,” Susswein said.

UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa also opposes allowing concealed handguns at system universities. On March 12, Cigarroa sent a letter to Gov. Rick Perry expressing concerns that such a measure would not increase safety at universities.

“I respect the Legislature’s authority to decide this policy issue and that neither all legislators nor the Texans they represent will agree,” Cigarroa said in the letter. “However, during my tenure as chancellor, parents, students, faculty, staff, administrators and institutional law enforcement officers have all expressed concern that the presence of concealed handguns on our campus will make the campus environment less safe.”

—Joshua Fechter

CAMPUS

Updated labs open for research

By Jeremy Thomas

Newly renovated state-of-the-art experimental and laboratory rooms now fill the first floor of Communication Building B of the Jesse H. Jones Communication Center.

The Behavioral Science Laboratory opened April 1 for College of Communication faculty and student research within the communication realm. Since the opening, two researchers are currently conducting experiments.

According to Nick Hundley, the College of Communication director of communications, the renovation created five experimental rooms for conducting research, a control room to monitor the research being conducted, a survey stimulus room, focus group suite, a natural viewing room and a waiting room for participants. Every research room is equipped with audio and video monitoring capability.

Hundley said College of Communication graduate and undergraduate students working with a faculty advisor may use the lab to conduct research.

“The lab enables the scientific study of human behavior and will be used for the study of human interaction, person-to-person conversation and group interaction,” Hundley said. “Researchers are able to capture



Yamel Thompson | Daily Texan Staff

Students participate in a tour of the renovated Behavioral Science Laboratory on Thursday afternoon.

digital feeds from cameras and microphones to later code and analyze.”

The laboratory is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations for spaces in the lab can be made as early as 60 days in advance but no less than 14 days before the research begins. Researchers must reserve online and are only allowed to schedule a maximum of 24 hours a week.

Veronica Inchauste, program coordinator of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, led a tour of the Behavioral Science Lab on Thursday. During the tour she said groups trying to use the space must provide their Institutional Review Board number and researchers must attend a mandatory orientation to learn about laboratory usage. She said these policies will allow for maximum efficiency.

“Before we created any of the policies, I did a lot

of research on the use of research labs around the country so that we would make sure there is an efficient use of the space,” Inchauste said. “We want to make sure it is being used efficiently and not used sitting there without anyone using it. This laboratory allows for flexibility for any kind of research.”

Communication Studies professor Brenda Berkelaar said she is hopeful that in the next couple of years she will conduct research in the laboratory.

“I am excited that we have space available that’s flexible that can account for a lot of different research questions and opportunities that the faculty and students here have,” Berkelaar said. “I believe the lab will give students an opportunity to have a richer understanding of some of the research process and how what we do can actually have impact.”

UNIVERSITY

Committee formed to find dean of new medical school

By Jordan Rudner

As plans move forward to create the Dell Medical School, which will be affiliated with UT Austin, a search committee has been formed to find the medical school’s inaugural dean.

The search committee consists of 18 members, including four UT System deans, several health professionals, two UT students and faculty members including Robert Messing, a pharmacy professor and vice provost for biomedical sciences who was named co-chair of the medical school’s steering committee in January.

Damarcus Baymon, a biology senior and member of the committee who plans to attend the UT Galveston Medical School in the fall, said he appreciated the chance to help shape the future medical school’s culture so early on in

the process. “The role of dean is critical in setting the tone for a medical school,” Baymon said. “I’m honored to help and to be a part of UT’s history.”

Baymon said he does not yet know what qualities he hopes to find in a dean.

“I don’t want to limit myself this early on, especially before we begin to discuss candidates as a group,” Baymon said. “We’re all going to need to keep an open mind.”

The University hired Witt/Kieffer, an executive search firm with experience in finding deans for medical and health sciences schools, to help guide the search process.

The committee members will attempt to find a dean before the start of the 2013-2014 academic year to prepare for the expected launch of the medical school in 2016. The inaugural class will likely be composed of roughly 50 students.

UNIVERSITY

Austin Energy forms new governing board

By Hannah Jane DeCiutiis

After receiving extensive input from Austin residents, City Council moved forward with the process of creating an independent, unelected board to govern Austin Energy.

Several hours of the council’s Thursday meeting were spent giving speakers time to share opinions about overturning the governance of Austin Energy from City Council to an appointed board. The first reading of the ordinance was unanimously approved by the council members present.

The council also passed a vote of 5-1 on an ordinance supporting two legislative bills allowing the council to implement the type of independent board they hope to create.

Roy Waley, vice chair of the Austin Sierra Club, said the lack of democracy and representation in an independent board is something that goes against the values of many Austin residents.

“What I believe is that one of the things that Austin has always believed in is a representation of democracy that’s driven by the citizens of Austin,” Waley said. “Austin Energy is owned by the rate payers.”

Cathy Coneway, chair of the Austin Board of Realtors, said she represented a body of realtors that supported the move toward an independent board.

“We would like to express our support for the



Citizens have a legitimate gripe.

—Chris Riley, Austin city council member

restructure of Austin Energy so that its operation can be overseen by an independent board,” Coneway said at the meeting. “We believe that oversight by an independent board will allow for a more strategic approach to the day-to-day decisions that impact the functionality of the utility.”

Council Member Chris Riley requested city staff look into ways concerned citizens could introduce appeals of the new board’s decisions and bring them before council before the second reading of the ordinance.

“Citizens have a legitimate gripe,” Riley said at the meeting.

Council Member Bill Spelman said some of the main questions regarding the power of the governing board have yet to be answered in future readings of the ordinance.

“The particular question that I think we need to think harder about the answer to is, ‘What authority do we give to a board and what authority do we keep to the city council?’” Spelman said at the meeting. “We have a first draft of that in this ordinance before us, but I think we still have more work to do before us.”

UNIVERSITY

Vice provost leaves for Cornell position

By Jordan Rudner

Gretchen Ritter, vice provost for undergraduate education and faculty governance, is excited to spend the coming fall in Ithaca, New York — because, for all she will miss about the University, one thing she is not sad to leave behind is Texas weather.

Ritter, also a government professor, is leaving UT to be the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University. A Cornell alumna herself, she will be the school’s first female dean.

“It was actually a little surprising to me that I’ll be the first woman in the position,” Ritter said. “I don’t think it will feel like a big deal to anyone there.”

Ritter, who has been on UT’s faculty since 1992, was instrumental in the creation of the Course Transformation Program, an initiative designed to improve large, lower

division gateway courses by promoting student and faculty engagement. Steve Leslie, outgoing executive vice president and provost, said the Course Transformation Program was one of Ritter’s greatest accomplishments.

“UT was one of the first places in the country to launch these blended and online learning initiatives, and Gretchen built that,” Leslie said. “She had the strength and persistent focus on cutting edge ways of transforming courses to set the stage for the methods we use today.”

Ritter also mentioned the program as one of her proudest achievements.

“I’m proud of having supported an experiment that uses educational technology in positive and thoughtful ways, and in ways that were faculty led and designed,” Ritter said.

Ritter said her decision to leave is based on a variety of factors, including her appreciation of Cornell and a desire to return to the region of the

country where she grew up. But in making her decision, Ritter said she also reflected on more recent concerns she has had about the state of Texas public higher education.

“I’m going because this is a great opportunity for me,” Ritter said. “But of course, I did reflect on the fact that it sometimes feels as though there is not as strong a commitment to supporting public higher education in the state as there used to be. That worries and concerns me.”

Last week, history professor David Oshinsky announced his resignation from UT in favor of working full-time at New York University. Though he cited family connections and personal opportunities as reasons for his departure, he told the Austin-American Statesman that recent conflicts between UT and the UT System Board of Regents made the choice easier.

“I do leave with sort of a bittersweet taste ... I see the



Gretchen Ritter

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Faculty Governance

University under fire now,” Oshinsky told the Statesman. “It does disturb me.”


Ritter said if trends like a lack of public commitment and support for public higher education continue, the University will suffer.

“I think we will be paying the price a decade from now,” Ritter said.

Still, Ritter said, she will miss many things about the University, including her colleagues and certain things that make UT a distinctly Texan university.

“I’ll definitely miss salsa and tortilla chips,” Ritter said.


Free talk!



Sunday, April 14, 2:30 p.m.

Roadmap for Life

In his “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus left the world a map for going higher in life. He taught people how to love in the face of hatred, live without fear, and focus on what really matters. Come to this spirited public talk and discover how this timeless message can be a practical guide in your life.



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WE ASKED: OIL MONEY

**THE QUESTION:** *Jim Benson, the executive director of University Lands, estimates the UT System's 2.1 million acres of land will generate close to \$1 billion in oil and gas revenue this fiscal year. The revenue will be invested by the University of Texas Investment Management Corporation (UTIMCO). Do you think it is ethical for a public university to so heavily fund oil and gas development for its own monetary gain?*

Yes, I do. This is the first I've ever heard about this issue, but I think that there's nothing inherently morally questionable with a public institution selling public assets to private companies if it's going toward funding something in the public interest. And I think that if, for example, doing this would allow us to have more competitive programs or lower tuition for most students, I think that withholding the rights to these gas reserves — the social utility of that would not outweigh the benefit of making our University more accessible and more competitive.

—Nicholas Sanford  
Asian Studies senior from Ft. Worth

My answer is “no,” because it's a public university, and being a public university, its own monetary gain as a corporation wouldn't be correct, because The University of Texas is part of the government. So they shouldn't be making profit off of things that, even though they belong to them, shouldn't be a government thing.

—Saffan Prasla  
Economics sophomore from Austin

To answer the question, it's not a black or white answer, it's not a yes or no, because there are so many gray areas involved — where they invest the money and all the logistics of everything that they're acting in — but I would say that, a public university gaining money off of gas and oil ... I don't know. I just see a public university as its own entity. It should be able to do whatever it wants. So long as it can keep track of that, and support it as to why — they're not going to invest their money in goats because they feel like it that week. You know, they're going to have reasons why. And so I think the

student body should at least have a little bit of say, or we should at least know about it. We should have all that access to that information; they should be upfront about it. Maybe it's an area that they can open up for the student body to get a little more involved in, that way we can make it more ethical. If we're paying tuition to a public university, and that university is in turn able to have this land that gains the university money that they can invest, the student body who is paying tuition should have a say in where they invest this money. So that's where I think the real ethics lies.

—Payton Williams  
RTF sophomore from Dallas

Well, I'm kind of in the middle of that. I see the dilemma in getting funding from other sources. So we do have that land, and we're able to drill on it, and get the money for our school, and we know that we definitely need that money. But at the same time, I'm kind of on the side where I'm not all supportive of drilling, so it's definitely a gray area. The environmental issue is a big one. I think there's a part of me that's very strong on protecting our environment, and looking at the aspect of nature and taking care of nature and humans alike, versus just making a profit and making decisions based on business. But, there's definitely a part of me that would see the benefit of something like drilling on our own land, no less.

—Erika Gomez  
Government and linguistics junior from Dallas

It is ethical, and the reason for that is, a lot of the things that UT does buy, and being a public institution, it's one of the things that they can invest in. It's something that's Texas-based. And even

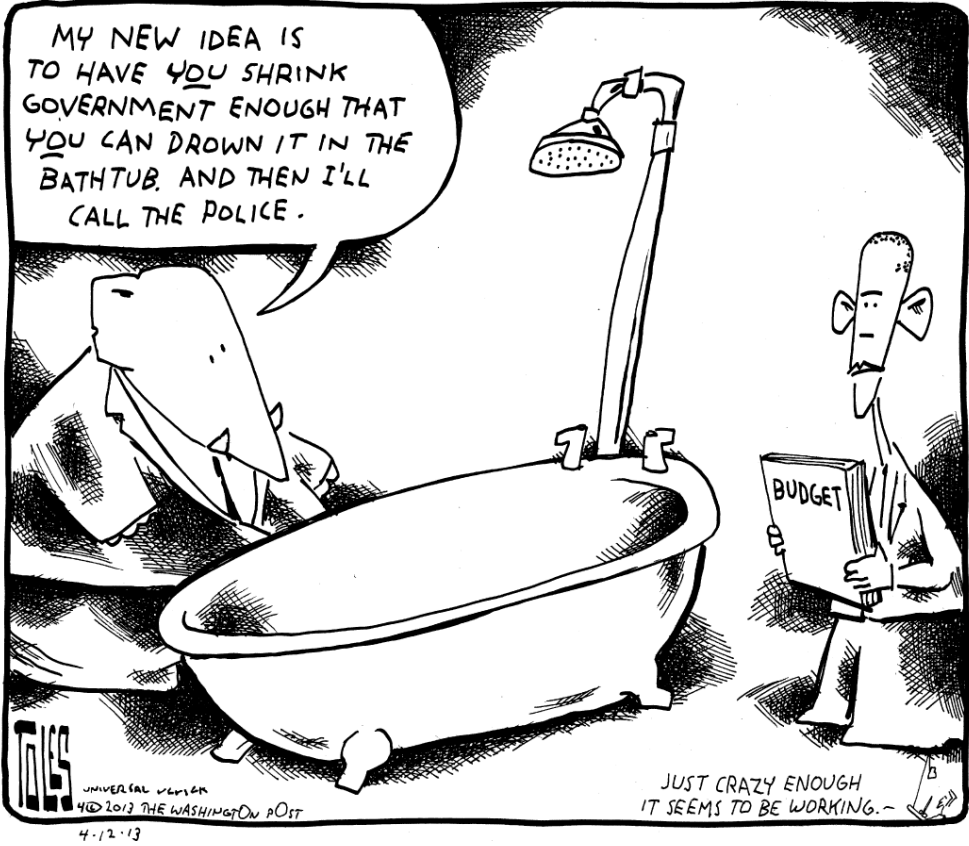
with the University stadium right now, a lot of it's privately owned and separately UT-owned as well, and I know they're selling beer for the 10,000 club seats as well. So things like that, which might be controversial, aren't really affecting students in a negative way. So in that light, as long as it's ethically done, I don't think there's a problem with it. In terms of the actual buying of those resources and using them for students' gain, I think that's still ethical. And beyond that, I can't say too much in terms of what administrators or what students think as a whole, because I think this decision was probably made a long time ago, in the best interest of students and the best interest of the University, so I think as long as we are gaining revenue from that and it's going into students' initiatives and programs, then there's no problem with it.

—Summy Das  
Finance sophomore from Rochester, N.Y.

I don't think there's a problem with them getting money from oil and gas, but I think there could be a problem with what they're spending it on. I have a mixed relationship with oil and gas anyway, because obviously I would prefer alternative fuels, but they're not widespread enough right now that they're everywhere, so I feel like because we're in Texas and oil and gas is such a major industry here, I think if they're going to get money from anywhere, it's smart for them to get it from oil and gas. As far as making money goes, it's a good decision. As far as environmental stuff goes, obviously it's not a good decision, but oil and gas in general is not a good decision as far as that goes.

—Evelyn Morgan  
Archaeology junior from Houston

GALLERY



Giddy for Google Fiber

Grayson Simmons  
Daily Texan Columnist

An announcement Tuesday morning from Google made it official: Austin is getting Google Fiber. We're now set to be the second Google Fiber-endowed city after Kansas City adopted the service just last year. This is a big step for Austin, a fast-growing technology hotspot. If you are lucky enough to be in one of Google's "fiberhoods," this is a good day.

Google Fiber is going to offer three different service options. For a one-time installation fee of \$300, customers will have access to a free internet connection capped at 5 megabytes per second (Mbps). Considering that this is faster than the Time Warner Cable's "basic" option in Austin — 3 Mbps — this is a pretty great deal. However, for those of us who are crippledly dependent on the Internet, there will also be offered a gigabit connection that is, according to Google, 100 times faster than average broadband speeds. Finally, there will be an option that includes the gigabit internet coupled with Google Fiber TV, which, among other things, has a reported 200 HD channels. Sound too good to be true? Well, it is true.

It may seem like Google is trying to take over the world here, and although some of us would be willing to offer it up on a silver platter, that's not the case. Google is just trying to stimulate innovation. It's common knowledge that there are a few cable companies that monopolize the TV and internet market. I mean, let's be honest — from how many different companies can you get internet service within the Austin city limits? I can think of three off the top of my head, and their prices and services seem a little too similar.

Without naming names, these corporations benefit from little to no competition. Because of the relatively high barriers to entry in such a market, there are no new companies that have the capital to encroach on internet and TV property. To these current cable gi-

ants, it's just good business to charge exorbitant prices and stifle bandwidth. It's all on the road to making profit. And while these companies kick back and count their money, it's the consumers — you and me — who are left with empty pockets.

These corporations have the capability to provide better services, but they're not willing to do so. That is where Google comes into play. By offering a high-quality alternative to the current cable services, these oligopolistic companies cannot afford to allow their services to languish. The other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have a choice: They either boost internet speeds and offer better pricing, something that they have always been capable of doing, or Google will steal their market share. This is a perfect example of competition benefiting the consumer.

All these things considered, Google isn't just doing this as some sort of random act of kindness. Remember that Google is mainly about one thing: Google. The money that they generate from their search engine and its spinoffs is what they are ultimately after. By easing these incredible internet speeds into America and stimulating competition, they are getting what they want. Sure, Google Fiber will provide awesome bandwidth, but other companies will most likely follow suit. And here is the tricky part: Google is counting on that likelihood. They want the other ISPs to offer faster service and better prices. These things culminate in more people having more internet, which means more people to use Google and its various services. That's how they are going to get their money out of this.

Personally, faster internet and lower prices sound pretty good, and Google seems to be one of the more benevolent corporations out there. At least they are showing a knack for adaptability and an eye for the future. I think it's safe to say that Google Fiber is a good thing. It stimulates innovation and allows for better competition. Austin is lucky to have it.

Simmons is an aerospace engineering senior from Austin.

Another semester, another bomb threat

Laura Wright  
Daily Texan Columnist

Wednesday night, I reacted to a safety alert email sent out by the UT administration about a "non-specific" bomb threat with the same nonchalance the students sitting around me in The Daily Texan office did: I shifted my computer on my lap and looked up to confirm that they too had received the email. Then we got back to work, more interested in tweeting out the news story than speculating on the severity of the situation.

The Daily Texan office admittedly may not be the best gauge of student reactions. (The paper's news department, after all, has to rush to the office to cover a campus bomb threat no matter how panicked the rest of campus may be.) But when I left the office shortly after, the students on campus didn't seem to be running around in a state of frenzy either. UT student Alice Lazare, a government and women's and gender studies freshman, may have summed up the student reaction best when she tweeted, "Another semester, another bomb threat," moments after the email was sent out.

It's difficult to find hard data about the student reaction to campus safety threats. According to Jane Bost, associate director of the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center, "no specific data is available" about the number of students the Center sees after safety alerts on campus compared to the number that visit the Center regularly. And while "all of [CMHC's] clinicians are trained to handle anxiety issues," the Center has yet to develop any specific protocol for helping students deal with anxiety issues related to campus safety threats. I don't mention this to suggest that they should develop a specific protocol, but because I believe this (admittedly anecdotal) evidence suggests that threats of mass violence don't cause the panic we instinctively feel they should.

What to make of the campus' lackluster response to threats of violence? For one, it's a reminder that these attacks (and threats of these attacks) are now fairly commonplace. According to a 2008 study in the Journal of American College Health, which surveyed campus police chiefs across the nation about firearm incidents, a safety incident involving a firearm had occurred on 35 percent of campuses in the prior five years. I was unable to find data about the prevalence of bomb threats on college campuses, but the wave of bomb threats to university campuses across the U.S. — including the UT campus in September 2012 — made American college students (especially those at public universities, which all four of the colleges directly targeted in the bomb threats were) hyper-aware of the possibility that the next day might bring "increased police presence" on campus due to a security threat.

The frequency of these threats makes a strong student response impractical. And panicking in response to them indulges a potential bomber or shooter's desire for attention, encouraging others to emulate their behavior.

And yet, on a less practical level, I find myself wanting the students on this campus to react more strongly to even empty threats on our campus. After all, UT has a history of mentally ill individuals committing acts of mass violence, as in 1966 when UT student Charles Whitman killed 17 people with a rifle from the top of the UT Tower. Those who threaten the campus with violence today, by calling in a bomb threat or by bringing a gun on campus, are psychological heirs to Whitman's cold-blooded act. And when we grow accustomed to these threats of violence, though it denies these nameless, faceless perpetrators the attention they might crave, it also denies ourselves the outrage and confusion we have a right to feel when people threaten our lives.

Thursday morning, the University sent out a follow-up safety alert email on the bomb threat informing students that they had "no new information to offer" but which asked students to "remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity or unusual objects to UTPD." Meanwhile, the national debate about how to "catch" and provide support to the mentally ill before they commit acts of violence continues. But it wouldn't be practical for us to react or to question what made someone want to threaten our campus in the first place. It just happens too often these days. It's just as Lazare said: Another semester, another bomb threat.

Wright is a Plan II junior from San Antonio.

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# Path to University Lands’ success includes many failed ideas, plans

By **Megan Strickland**

Sources of revenue on University Lands are well developed today and include successful business ventures in the energy, beverage and agriculture industries, but the pathway to creating that network of income has been riddled with interesting experiments and proposals, university officials said.

For every successful business venture proposed on University Lands, there’s another long list of failed ideas that never amounted to much, executive director James Benson said.

“We’ve had tons of crazy ideas proposed over the years,” Benson said. “Most of the time they just show up at the door. People look for large blocks of land, so we’re a target because we have those large blocks of land. It’s in the desert, so no one thinks it has value. They just believe we would welcome anything.”

Ideas are proposed by both academics and entrepreneurs, Benson said.

“Some are just plain crooks,” he said.

Others ideas are not economically feasible, Benson said.

“My favorite one was called EnviroMission,” Benson said. “The guy wanted to build a tower in the middle of the desert that would be as tall as the Empire State Building.”

He said the tower would be hollow and have a greenhouse umbrella to generate a convection current that would turn wind turbines to generate electricity.

“Now, we’re talking millions of dollars to generate about 100 megawatts of power — which would be very expensive per kilowatt hour,” Benson said. “I thought we should get a bungee jumping concession to make some

money off that.”

There is a delicate balance the managers of University Lands have to strike when considering ideas, Steve Hartmann, former University Lands executive director, said. Hartmann said juggling the various interests on University Lands involved a lot of decision making during his 35 years of director, but was also enjoyable.

“It was always interesting,” Hartmann said. “One of the things I always enjoyed was that you were always having to learn something new for the things we got involved with. By the time you thought you had seen everything, you’d find out you haven’t.”

Timeliness can be a factor to the viability of a proposed University Lands project. Although Hartmann and Benson both recall failed negotiations with companies interested in growing native guayule on University Lands for rubber production in recent years, the plant was successfully marketed by the University System a century ago.

Regent George W. Brackenridge was praised in the April 15, 1910 edition of the University of Texas Record for his work in facilitating the sale of \$30,000 of guayule that grew on University Lands. Maximum annual revenue for the University Lands during Brackenridge’s tenure was \$120,000, the publication said. The UT Board of Regents in their 1908 biennial report called the sale of the guayule a “windfall” that helped raise funds for a University power plant and library. On Oct. 21, 1943, the Tulia Herald also reported a purchase of guayule from University Lands by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For an undisclosed amount of money, the USDA purchased guayule

“We try a lot of different things in terms of trying to find the best use of the land. One of the goals is always to diversify the revenue stream. Over the years we’ve tried to grow a number of different crops. That’s how we got the vineyard.”

—Steve Hartmann,  
former University Lands executive director

shrubs on 176,000 acres of University Lands according to the report.

“We try a lot of different things in terms of trying to find the best use of the land,” Hartmann said. “One of the goals is always to diversify the revenue stream. Over the years we’ve tried to grow a number of different crops. That’s how we got the vineyard.”

What started out as a research experiment involving grapes in 1974, transformed one patch of University Lands into Texas’ largest vineyard. Other attempts to grow almonds, pistachios, algae, olive trees and jojoba beans didn’t succeed, Hartmann said.

He said finding the space to accommodate new projects on University Lands can be difficult.

“There is not a single acre that is not leased,” Hartmann said. “In many cases it’s leased for multiple purposes. You have a lot of people out there. When someone comes in with an idea, generally it’s going to move someone else out of the way. It’s got to have significant merit before we tell someone else to get out of the way.”

Limited space was a problem when UT Austin researchers approached Hartmann about testing a rail gun invented by the Center for Electromechanics. The gun used electromagnetic force, rather than chemical

energy to fire projectiles.

“This thing would shoot a projectile at phenomenal speeds and phenomenal distances,” Hartmann said. “We were looking for a place to shoot this thing for a number of miles and we couldn’t have any power lines in the way. We couldn’t have any oil wells nearby or any pipelines. I looked for many days and there wasn’t a single place on the 2.1 million acres where there was a place to test the rail gun.”

Just because an idea doesn’t have a future on the University Lands doesn’t mean it is without merit, Hartmann said. Some of the projects find success elsewhere. The rail gun eventually was tested in the early 1990s at the Pickle Research Campus, where it propelled a projectile into the ground according to Lori Moore, administrative manager of the Center for Electromechanics.

“We haven’t used it since the end of the project, but we still have a rail gun pointed into a 150 [foot] hole in the ground,” Moore said.

Hartmann said profitability and feasibility factor in with potential impact on the land.

“A lot of these things produce a lot of long-term changes on the land that you might not even think of, so you have to be pretty judicious about how you do it and where you do it,” Hartmann said.

# Lizard species dwelling in oil land raises issues

By **Joshua Fechter**

Environmental groups and governmental agencies are wrestling with how to properly protect a type of lizard that resides on oil-producing lands owned by the UT System.

The 3-inch dunes sagebrush lizard lives in areas of West Texas and southeastern New Mexico and is considered a habitat specialist, which means it can only survive in certain habitats — specifically the dunes that cover much of West Texas.

This raised concerns from environmental groups that wish to see the lizard added to the U.S. Endangered Species list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service denied the lizard inclusion on the list in 2012, citing voluntary conservation efforts by landowners in Texas and New Mexico as sufficient for the lizard’s preservation.

Todd Anderson, environmental toxicology professor at Texas Tech University, studied the lizard’s habitat in Andrews County on property owned by the UT System. Chris Salice, assistant professor in environmental toxicology at Texas Tech, and a group of graduate students participated in the study.

“Part of the problem is that it has a limited habitat and, coincidentally, it has a habitat where there’s a lot of oil and gas activity,” Anderson said.

The group studied three potential risk factors — contamination of dune sand as a result of oil industry activity, usage of the herbicide Tebuthiuron by ranchers on shinners oak

habitats where the lizard resides and weather patterns affecting the size of sand grains in dunes where the lizard nests.

Anderson said the group did not find those factors have a significant impact on the lizard’s population in the area they studied.

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision not to include the lizard on the Endangered Species list has drawn criticism from environmental groups, particularly Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity. On March 14, the groups issued a joint notice of intent to sue the Fish and Wildlife Service within 60 days to include the lizard on the list.

Noah Greenwald, the center’s endangered species director, said the Texas Comptroller’s Office, which oversees the voluntary conservation agreements between landowners and the state, does not allow the public to access records of efforts to protect the lizard.

“If we can’t see what the conservation efforts are, there’s no way we can evaluate the adequacy of the protections,” Greenwald said.

Texas Comptroller spokesman R.J. DeSilva said state law prohibits the comptroller’s office from releasing the records. He said 103,796 out of 197,606 acres of the lizard’s habitat are enrolled in Texas’ voluntary conservation plan.

University Lands Executive Director Jim Benson said his office is conducting a study in order to minimize its impact on the lizard’s habitat.

—Additional reporting by  
Megan Strickland and Alexa Ura



Courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental groups and governmental agencies have differing ideas about efforts to protect the dunes sagebrush lizard.

# Texas dominates in wind energy

By **Alberto Long**

Two wind farms situated atop University Lands in West Texas contribute to Texas’ dominance in wind energy production, while providing funding for the University and clean energy for thousands of Texans.

The Woodward Mountain Wind Ranch and Indian Mesa Wind Farm have been operational on University Lands since 2001. The office of University Lands leases the 2.1 million acres for various purposes, including oil and gas production, as well as the installation of pipelines and even a commercial winery, said Richard Brantley, associate director of surface and mineral interests for University Lands.

“Energy companies pay a commercial lease, and they pay a royalty on the power that they produce,” Brantley said. “Everything we do is commercial. Our mission is to make money for the University of Texas System.”

The Woodward Mountain Wind Ranch is a 160-megawatt

wind generation plant capable of providing power for 72,600 homes. The Indian Mesa Wind Farm is a smaller operation, producing 82.5 megawatts that can provide power for 20,500 homes.

The wind farms are operated by NextEra Energy Resources, the largest wind energy generator in America. NextEra is one of 1,300 companies in industries directly and indirectly related to renewable energy that operate in Texas and employ nearly 100,000 workers, according to the 2012 Texas Renewable Energy Industry report.

According to the report, Texas’ 10,394 megawatt wind energy capacity exceeds that of all but five countries. Much of Texas’ dominance in the renewable energy field is a result of the Texas Renewable Portfolio Standard, enacted in 1999 and extended in 2005 to increase the minimum statewide capacity for renewable energy production. According to the report, the state’s installed capacity reached the 10,000 megawatt target in early 2010 — 15 years ahead of schedule.

The distribution of wind energy in Texas has not come without its pitfalls. Because the majority of operational wind farms are installed in West Texas, finding ways to transport energy eastward toward metropolitan areas has posed problems.

“We don’t have enough capacity to bring the wind from where it’s being produced to where it’s needed,” Lance Manuel, an engineering professor at UT, said. “The amount of energy the farms in West Texas are producing is much more than that area needs. Wind is only needed where people can use it, like major metropolitan areas.”

Manuel said the expansion of wind energy production in Texas is likely to slow in the future.

“We don’t have enough capacity to bring the wind from where it’s being produced to where it’s needed,” Manuel said. “It is possible to get the energy from West Texas to metropolitan areas in the east. However, it can’t happen at a sustained rate without some infrastructure by way of transmission lines and expansion.”

University Lands will receive. The winning bid was a 20 percent royalty contract.

Kelley said if horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing lead to the discovery of oil, the Hudspeth lands might one day be sold alongside the other oil-producing tracts.

“If [the bidders] are able to start producing in the future, we might be able to move toward a more traditional lease bid for the tract,” Kelley said.

University Lands’ Executive Director Jim Benson expressed similar hopes.

“The ability to drill into source rock has really widened the scope of what people can look for,” Benson said. “The last time we drilled, there was

no really fabulous result. But things have progressed quite a bit since then, so I think someone thinks there’s room for improvement.”

Jeanne Eckhart, the Senior Student Associate at UT’s Campus Environmental Center, said hydraulic fracturing makes sense from an economic perspective, even though it can be risky if executed incorrectly.

“Generally, hydraulic fracturing can have severe environmental implications if not done in the proper way,” Eckhart said. “[But] I think that economically and financially, the practice is the best way the System sees to acquire the funds it needs to sustain its operations.”

**SALE**

*continues from page 1*

on a little more risk.”

The lease sales in the two areas of land were also structured differently. Normally, companies submit sealed bids to compete for oil and gas leases on specific tracts, and University Lands receives a 25 percent royalty on any oil and gas revenue. Because the land in Hudspeth County was sitting unused, University Lands offered acres for a fee that Kelley described as “relatively nominal” and companies submitted bids on the percentage of royalties

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# FACES OF THE BOOM

(Left) Ada  
(Center)  
(Right) Jer

## BOOM

*continues from page 1*

2010 and 2011 when the boom picked up, Benson said. The most recent sale made only \$70 million with about 16 percent of the acreage up for lease during the September 2011 sale.

Oil was first discovered on UT lands in 1923, and the lands in the Permian Basin saw high levels of production during an oil boom in in the 1960s, during which the entire area produced 607 million barrels of oil over several years, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

Overall production in the basin totaled 312 million barrels of oil just last year, according to Railroad Commission figures. Production on University Lands, which fall mostly in the Permian Basin, reached 32 million barrels of oil in 2012 alone.

### DEVELOPMENT AND CHALLENGES

In a city where pump jacks are as common in backyards as swing sets, millions of gallons of water are being used per well for fracking. Despite a long-standing drought in the area, most locals' concerns revolve around increased traffic and the faster-paced lifestyle that has resulted from the oil-driven migration to Midland.

In 2005, the city's population stood at about 99,000, according to city estimates. According to the U.S. Census estimates, the population stood at about 114,000 in 2011.

Some locals complain about the lack of supplies in grocery stores. A trip to the local Wal-Mart proves that multiple aisles have completely empty sections, including bottled water, raw chicken, sports drinks and toilet paper. Others complain about increased traffic in the area as travel time increases and major streets and roadways become a caravan of large oil transportation trucks and Super Duty Ford trucks

emblazoned with oil and gas company logos.

Midland Mayor Wes Perry said the technology behind the current oil boom is essential to development in the area because it has boosted sales tax revenue, which the city is using for one-time capital projects after seeing increases in sales taxes.

"At this particular time, it's not the typical situation like we had it in the past because it is driven by technology, not so much the price of oil," Perry said. "When the price of oil drops, things will slow down, but it's not going to be like it used to be where it was a boom and then a big bust cycle."

Midland is currently undergoing various development projects to improve infrastructure, including highway widening projects and waterline extensions to industrial areas.

The increase of oil workers in the area has also transformed the city's skyline with the construction of dozens of new hotels, which bring

in hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for the city.

Perry said private sector developers are taking advantage of the financial opportunity in the housing market, which has faced increased levels in demand. Available and upcoming housing in Midland is projected at 5,300 available units, including 2,079 apartments and 1,301 hotel rooms, according to city housing documents.

City spokeswoman Sara Higgins said hotel units are also considered part of the available housing units because companies rent out multiple rooms and floors at some hotels during the week.

Not all have benefited from the oil boom in the area though. Local resident Marc McPeters moved to the area during the previous boom and has lived on the same plot of land for decades.

Back then, McPeters said she had to purchase her mobile home from New Mexico because housing was scarce.

Today, Endeavour Energy Resources operates

# Oil, gas exploration uncover Native American artifacts

**By Christine Ayala**

As the number of development projects on University Lands increases, further inspections of the land are needed. In turn, archeologists are expanding their knowledge of West Texas and finding hundreds of Native American artifacts along the way.

In the last year and a half, more than 500 sites have been found, examined and documented, according to Solveig Turpin, a UT alumna who owns Turpin and Sons Inc., an archeological surveying company that regularly inspects sites for University Lands. The sites can range from an area of a few ancient hand tools to engraved drawings known as petroglyphs.

"With the petroglyph it's always interesting and exciting to see something like that and try to understand what they were doing," Turpin said. "[The petroglyph] isn't an isolated phenomenon. The more sites we get, the more we can see a pattern."

Jonathan Jarvis, UT Texas Archeological Research

Laboratory record keeper, said cultural research, including archeological investigations, must be conducted when development projects are approved to use public land, or can be publicly funded or require a federal or state permit. The investigations help guide oil and gas explorations if development could harm a significant site.

Turpin, who has worked with University Lands for three decades, said once an area is declared an archeological site, any plans for that area have to be altered to avoid damaging the site. Turpin said University Lands has also sponsored archeological projects.

"We excavated a bison kill site in a lake bed that was 18,000 years old because a pipeline was coming that way," Turpin said. "When we find [sites] we plot them on a map and the University knows where they are, so when these projects come in they can tell if anything is in the way."

Turpin said finding these sites also allows them to be protected. Once they are recorded in state records,

the state antiquity committee can designate sites as archeological landmarks, which offers stricter legal protection against removal of artifacts or vandalism. The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act also helps deter damage to the sites with penalties for looters.

"We excavated a cave because relic hunters had excavated a mummified child," Turpin said. "We excavated the site after because they were obviously intent on taking the human remains. But nobody can watch that much land."

Jarvis said the findings from these sites have created a collection of documented sites to survey and information for archeologists and graduate students to study.

"The archives that we have with sites can actually be analyzed to predict if there may be other sites near by, in advance of a project" Jarvis said.

Anthropology sophomore Kelsey White said the findings with recorded locations will aid future analysts with



Photo courtesy of Solveig Turpin

University Lands contract workers Terry Burgess, Marin Millen, Holly Mello and Kathleen Burgess work to survey and record a petroglyph site along the abandoned Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad built in the 1800s.

information of the site locations and proximity to other sites.

"It's really important to be able to examine this kind of information because there is context," White said. "Texas is a really important state because it's so large; there have

been many different groups through the years. We know where the artifacts are coming from and often times in archaeology there isn't a context of where artifacts are found."

Turpin said as the University continues using lands for various projects, more

sites will be discovered and the information about the people who once used the land will grow. Turpin said hopefully someday, with enough information, archeologists will be able to piece together how these people lived.

# Full disclosure important as hydraulic fracking studies continue

**By Andrew Messamore**

Research on hydraulic fracturing continues at UT as researchers adapt their policies to meet new University-wide conflict of interest guidelines.

A two-year study completed in February on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, by the Bureau of Economic Geology found the Barnett Shale gas reservoir of North Texas has reached peak potential and is set to remain viable while slowly declining in productivity through 2030. The Bureau of Economic Geology is a research unit in the Jackson

School of Geosciences.

A separate study on fracking on the Barnett Shale is also under way in the UT Energy Institute, where researchers are examining the impact of fracking on water quality, water use and the possibility of fracking-induced earthquakes. The study is expected to be completed in the late summer or early fall.

In the wake of two failures to disclose potential conflicts of interest in UT affiliated research last year, the UT System approved stronger disclosure policies. The new guidelines require an independent University official to determine

whether a conflict of interest exists instead of leaving the determination up to individual research units. The guidelines also require researchers to disclose all outside funding regardless of its source.

One aspect of the new standards, which came into effect in January, requires that the University create a publicly searchable database of full-time faculty and staff for research approval requests and disclosures of professional activity outside of the University.

This database has not been launched, but the University hopes to create a function-

ing website by May, University spokesman Gary Susswein said.

The University has also required publicly available information on new research, including related press releases and FAQs, to disclose potential conflicts of interest in response to recommendations from a University commissioned report by an outside panel on research disclosure policy released last November.

In a press release on the Geology study, researchers disclosed that the co-principle investigator of the study, Scott Tinker, sits on the board of three oil and gas companies and receives

compensation from them. Two other researchers involved in the study own stock in oil and gas companies, the press release said.

"The researcher complied very willingly to the new standards," said John Bird, spokesperson for the Geology Foundation and the Jackson School of Geosciences. "They know it's important to bolster public confidence in their research."

The Geology study, which was funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, has not released a full summary report of findings to the general public, although five separate

manuscripts of findings are being peer reviewed by research publications.

Mark Blunt, program manager for the Bureau of Economic Geology, said the decision not to publish a summary report is made on a case-by-case basis.

"It was the decision made with this study," Blunt said. "It depends on the type of research and what the topic calls for. There may be a summary article that might be prepared and submitted too in the near future, but as far as a comprehensive review, that's what's been released in five separate manuscripts."





Adam Chavez, field coordinator for an oil transportation company in Midland  
Marc McPeters, Midland resident with a pump jack on her property  
Jerry Morales, Midland City Council member and owner of Gerardo's Casita



Photos by Zachary Strain  
Daily Texan Staff

an oil rig on almost half of McPeters' property, but she said she doesn't receive royalties from production revenue because Endeavour owns the mineral rights to her land. In Texas, land rights and mineral rights are sold separately.

When Endeavour approached her about drilling on her property, McPeters said she wasn't aware that her property ownership didn't include mineral rights, which would entitle her to royalty payments on any oil production on her land. "How they got them, I don't know," McPeter said. "They paid me \$8,500 to put that pump jack there, and I had to pay taxes on that. They said 'This is what we're going to give you. Get out of the way.'"

EMPLOYMENT

The boom has also resulted in the lowest unemployment levels in the state as new drilling corporations have set up shop offering thousands of new jobs for locals and field workers who have moved into the area. In February, the

unemployment rate dropped to 3.2 percent for the Midland metropolitan area — the lowest rate in the state and one of the lowest in the nation — according to a monthly report by the Texas Workforce Commission. The state unemployment rate, which has increased slightly this year, is 6.5 percent.

Adam Chavez, field coordinator for Eagle-One, an independent transportation company that does oilfield transportation, said he moved to Midland from Plainview in 2011 because of the work opportunities in the area.

Chavez, who started as a company driver and was on call 24/7, travels home to visit his family during the weekend but lives in one of multiple RV campgrounds that have emerged throughout the Permian Basin. Some RV parks rent out space to oil workers who sleep in tents on makeshift grounds that locals call "man camps." Man camps are not permitted on System land, according to a University Lands official.

"I'll be here as long as there is work and if the

work doesn't move north," Chavez said. "I'll be here until they say it's dried up."

Midland became the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the nation last year with a population increase of 4.6 percent, and Midland County was ranked as the 10th-fastest growing county, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

High employment opportunities in the oil fields have left local restaurants that offer lower-paying jobs struggling to staff their operations while demand increases.

In the last two years, Gerardo's Casita, a local Mexican restaurant, has lost cooks and kitchen staff to the oil fields, forcing Jerry Morales, Midland City Council member and owner of the restaurant, to step into the kitchen almost four times a week.

Morales said his restaurant has benefitted from the boom with tables occupied from open to close every day as the community thrives economically, but he has also had to make

changes to adapt to the staffing challenges that come along with an increased amount of patrons.

It's not unusual to see managers and owners working hosting and busboy duties in other restaurants, Morales said.

"It's been very hard for us in the retail business to compete with an industry where they're working 80 hours overtime in a week at 22 years old, bringing home a \$3,000 check," Morales said. "I'm probably paying \$2-3 more [an hour] than I was 24 months ago."

Gerardo's Casita now closes for three hours between lunch and dinner and is closed all day on Sunday because Morales said he doesn't have the staff to cover sufficient shifts to avoid paying current employees overtime. The restaurant has also increased menu prices to make up for the increased wages.

"It took a little while for us to understand [the boom] and it took a little to see if it was really going to last," Morales said. "I don't really call it a problem. It's just a challenge."

# Lucrative oil drilling, drought prove detrimental to ranching

By Megan Strickland

Swaths of West Texas ranches dotted with cattle, sheep, rattlesnakes and cacti have never been much to look at, Sammy Hooper says with a laugh. Nevertheless, the 74-year-old rancher and his wife Mima Hooper say the recent drought and influx of the oil and gas industry have greatly impacted their operation.

The boom of the oil industry in the Permian Basin and severe drought have taken a toll on the couple's ranching operation. The Hoopers are one of 112 grazing lessees on University Lands' 2.1 million acres. The drought will break eventually, but unless University administration takes some interest in preserving the natural environment, the Hoopers' ranching future remains bleak, he said.

"We've spent 20 years or so ranching on University property," Sammy Hooper said. "We're sickened by what's happened in the past five years."

The problems began with the onset of drought several years ago, and the lack of water has been exacerbated by the influx of oil companies in the past two years, Hooper said. Since 2011, the Hoopers' herd size was reduced by a third.

"The biggest problems are when the oil field has come in and torn up our water lines, and we're not even notified about it until it's too late," Hooper said. "I'm really worried about this fracking system. They're using a lot of water for these oil wells, and I just worry they aren't conserving the water the way they should. If oil is more important than ranching, we're out."

According to Hooper, they have to pump water from deep underground to reach their herds, and the deeper the well, the more expensive it is to pay for the electricity to pump it.

"Our only source of income is through livestock," Hooper said. "If we have no water there's no ranch. There's no grass, there's no rain, there's no ranch."

Hooper said he recently tested some of his wells and discovered their levels were too low to water his herd.

The western part of Texas has seen below average rainfall for the past two years according to Ken Rainwater, director of the Water Resources Center at Texas Tech University. The area received less than a third of its average yearly rainfall in 2011 and didn't meet its rainfall average last year either, Rainwater said.

University Lands Executive Director Jim Benson said no lessee has priority to water on University Lands. Benson said oil companies, which usually need millions of gallons of water for fracking wells that crack shale formations in order to extract oil and gas, are required by University Lands to minimize their water use by reusing wastewater.

"The policy has always been that if we could prove that an oil company damaged a lessee's well, then that company would be responsible to provide that water to the lessee," Benson said.

Hooper said in the past two years there has been a disconnect between how the oil companies and ranchers are supposed to operate and how those relationships interact in reality.

"In this influx of oil invasion, we have no say," Hooper said. "We've spent our last dime buying leases from the University and they have allowed the oil companies to come in and destroy the land."

Torn up water lines are just a small piece of the damage that's been done, Hooper said.

Whole pastures are now coated in limestone surface rock called caliche used

If oil is more important than ranching, we're out.

—Sammy Hooper, Rancher

to create roads for oil field workers. Grass won't grow on caliche, and its dust coats the grass nearby, making it inedible for cattle, Hooper said. Wildlife such as deer and quail have left the ranch because of oil field traffic, according to Hooper.

"All that to get oil," Hooper said. "If oil's more important than the habitat of nature then that's really messed up."

Hooper said ranchers previously received money from University Lands to help cover the cost of damages to their leases, but the money has stopped within the last six months. Benson said the University Lands office has budgeted money to help make improvements in the past, but funding for those projects is not always available.

He said it is disheartening to see public land damaged by the industry, but he doesn't have much hope for the situation to change. Hooper said anything short of directives from top university officials will be futile in protecting the grazing lands.

"The Board of Regents are going to have to lay down the law about what the oil companies can and will do," Hooper said. "We have talked with the local University people at great length. They apparently have no authority and it looks like their hands are tied."

UT spokeswoman Karen Adler was unable to say how involved the Board of Regents was in monitoring interaction between ranchers and oil companies.

# Officials mull groundwater's future

By Megan Strickland

Deep below the dry dust surface of University Lands is groundwater that breathes life into the ranches, vineyards and oil wells that sit on top of it.

University Lands has a long history of managing its water between many divided interests, Executive Director Jim Benson said, but the recent oil boom in the region has outside regulatory entities concerned about the sustainability of water resources in the area. Bills filed in the Texas Legislature aim to impose more regulations on water extracted by oil and gas companies, while other pending bills would relax existing restrictions.

"We're always concerned with water in West Texas — always," Benson said. "We don't have any surface water on University Lands. It's all groundwater, so we're always concerned."

Groundwater beneath the University Lands are part of the Ogallala, Cenozoic Pecos Alluvium and Gotham aquifers, Benson said. The exact amount of water the University Lands have in each aquifer is difficult to quantify, he said.

"We have considerable amounts of water, but I can't tell you the exact amount we have because we haven't spent the revenue to explore all of it," Benson said. "As far as a massive study to explore the volumes of water, at this point it would be beyond our ability to budget that."

The biggest consumers of University Lands water are municipalities, which Benson estimates use approximately 28 million gallons per day. The water isn't always of the best quality, but is treatable and desirable in the climate where the resource is limited, he said.

"It's pretty salty," he said. "It's fresh. You can drink it, but it doesn't taste great."

Up to half of the water consumed by Andrews — a town of about 11,000 people — comes from wells on

University Land, said Danny Griffin, director of water production and plant management for the city. Andrews has purchased water from University Lands for more than 50 years and just signed an agreement to extend its contract for another 25 years. Although the price of water from University Lands has increased by 12 percent since 2010 and now must be mixed with surface water to dilute arsenic levels, the deal Andrews and University Lands have worked out is fairly favorable, Griffin said.

"It's not a bad rate," he said. "Especially because water's a scarce resource."

Energy companies also use freshwater in a process known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking, which uses millions of gallons of water mixed with chemicals to crack shale formations and extract oil and natural gas from deep below the earth's surface, Benson said.

The University has tried to reduce the impact of these wells on its freshwater supply by requiring the energy companies to reuse water from fracking that would otherwise be pumped back into the ground in a disposal well at a different location. No federal or state laws or regulations force companies to reuse their wastewater if they do not operate on University Lands.

"We're trying to minimize the impact of oil and gas activity on the freshwater by utilizing this produced water that would otherwise be disposed of," Benson said.

The University Lands also implemented its first groundwater management plan this year, which requires any entity drilling a water well on its property to seek approval from University Lands.

State law requires all entities that use more than 25,000 gallons of water per day, with the exception of oil, gas and mining companies, to seek a permit from a local groundwater conservation district, if one exists, and

report the amount of water they withdraw. And while oil and gas companies have to register wells with the groundwater conservation district, they don't have to account how much water they withdraw, said Cindy Weatherby manager of the Santa Rita Groundwater Conservation District in Reagan County.

"Oil and gas is our biggest problem right now," Weatherby said. "There's no way to put a finger on how much they are impacting us because they're exempt from reporting."

The districts are responsible for managing groundwater in the state, but that task is difficult when oil and gas companies don't have to account for the water they use, Weatherby said. In the past year, her office has been overwhelmed by drilling registrations.

"The registrations come in so fast, I can barely keep up with putting them in the computer," Weatherby said. "There's some legislation that might help us. We can only pray."

A bill, filed by state Sen. Glenn Hegar, R-Katy, and passed by the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday, would require oil and gas companies to report how much water they use for fracking to groundwater conservation districts. Lisa Craven, Hegar's chief of staff, said current regulations on oil and gas companies drilling for fracking water were implemented before the practice was invented and need to be reformed.

"Senator Hegar believes that the oil and gas companies should have to follow the rules that apply to everyone else," Craven said.

Bills filed by state Rep. James Keffer, R-Eastland, and state Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio would exempt water wells drilled for fracking purposes from the groundwater conservation district's permitting process.

"It's the exact opposite of what our bill would do," Craven said.



## WOMEN'S TENNIS

# Addison all in for Texas

By Chris Caraveo

The streak is alive, but even if it ends soon, Breanna Addison will keep on moving.

Last weekend, Addison, a freshman at Texas, won her tenth consecutive singles match in a bout against Boston University on Sunday — a match, she said, that gave her all she could handle.

“My match on Sunday was probably the toughest [this season],” she said. “My opponent had a lot of variety in her moves and I was tired. I did not want to give up the streak, but at the end of the day it is about the team and not me.”

Before her time as a Longhorn, Addison grew up and played tennis in Boca Raton in South Florida. It is home to Florida Atlantic University and has been a residential area for well-known athletes such as Pete Rose, Jeff Gordon and Cris Carter.

After growing up watching tennis icons Serena and Venus Williams and her favorite, Roger Federer, she decided to give tennis a shot. Addison said that she wants to



Guillermo Hernandez Martinez | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Breanna Addison has made the most of her opening season on the Forty Acres, currently holding an 18-5 overall singles record in addition to a 12-11 record in doubles play so far this season.

adjust her style to be like Federer's, which means incorporating mixed angles while returning and playing strategic tennis.

Addison enjoyed success in high school and at one point was ranked sixth in the nation. She won the

prestigious Orange Bowl in 2009 as a 14-year-old playing in the 16-year-old division.

She has also played against, and beaten, Sloane Stephens, who is best known today as the American who defeated

the decorated Serena Williams at the Australian Open this year.

Head coach Patty Fendick-McCain said she admires Addison's passion for the game and her attention to the team.

“Breanna is such a tremendous person and a team player,” Fendick-McCain said. “It is good to see her doing well this season considering she just started in January.”

TEAM *continues on page 9*

## BASEBALL



Charlie Pearce | Daily Texan Staff

Parker French looks to bounce back from a loss to Oklahoma in last weekend's series when he faces Kansas in game one of a crucial series for Texas. French is 3-2 with a 2.32 ERA this season.

## Series a must-win for Horns

By Sara Beth Purdy

They need this.

The Longhorns are currently entering the second half of their season without a conference series win and with only one series win on the road. Things are getting serious for a team hoping to avoid missing out on the postseason for the second year in a row.

Texas (18-13, 3-6) travels to Lawrence this weekend to face Kansas in a three game series which starts at 6:00 p.m. on Friday night.

The Longhorns are coming off a big 12-5 win over Texas State which featured a high-octane offense, one that has been absent so far this season.

“It was definitely a big win. We are going to go play Kansas this weekend out there,” junior Mark Payton said. “It's gonna be a big series for us to get back in the race. We know what we can do, we're excited for the opportunities ahead of us.”

In Tuesday night's victory, the Longhorns put up season high numbers on

Texas @ Kansas



Friday, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 2 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m.

offense, momentum that Texas hopes to carry into this weekend's series.

Payton had a perfect night at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Freshman C.J. Hinojosa had a career

KANSAS *continues on page 9*

## SOFTBALL

## UT looks to extend 12-game win streak

By Evan Berkowitz

Iowa State @ Texas



Friday, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, 5 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m.

The No. 6 Longhorns (35-4) will welcome Iowa State (18-19) to Red and Charline McCombs field this weekend for a three-game series as the first of five straight series against Big 12 opponents to end the season.

The Cyclones have struggled this season, losing games to smaller schools such as IPFW, UTSA, Valparaiso and Florida Gulf Coast. Then, in their first conference series, they were swept by Baylor.

But Iowa State has bounced back recently, sweeping Oklahoma State to even out its conference record at 3-3, and defeating Drake. They now come to Austin with a little momentum, riding a four-game winning streak.

The momentum might not be enough, though, as they face an even hotter team in Texas, which has won 12 in a row.

At the plate, Texas hitters should dominate against the worst pitching team in the Big 12. Iowa State has a 6.22 team ERA and not one pitcher that boasts an ERA better than any of Texas' four pitchers.

In the circle, Texas may have even a bigger advantage. The nation's second-best pitching team will look to stymie the Cyclones at the plate the way they've done with other teams recently. Blaire Luna (19-1), who boasts a team-best 1.04 ERA, shouldn't have

much to worry about against Iowa State and their .301 team batting average. While a few Cyclones do have decent batting averages, there isn't one Cyclone hitter that stands out.

Not only does Texas have more talent, but Iowa State has struggled mightily on the road, where it's 0-10 this season.

As for the Longhorns, they look to improve upon their perfect 5-0 conference record. Only once has a Texas team started Big 12 play 7-0, and the Longhorns have a golden opportunity to do it this year.

This week, Luna and Taylor Hoagland were both selected as two of the top 25 finalists for the Amateur Softball Association of America's 2013 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, the most prestigious award in DI softball.

Hoagland leads the nation in on-base percentage (.648) and walks (51) while boasting a .451 batting average, while Luna is seventh in ERA and leads the nation in strikeouts per seven innings (12.9). Luna, who's gone 99-24 in four seasons with the Longhorns, will also be looking to pick up career win No. 100 this weekend.



Charlie Pearce | Daily Texan Staff

Senior Taylor Hoagland leads the thunderous Longhorn lineup with a .451 batting average and 51 walks this year.

## SIDELINE

## NBA



## MLB



## LONGHORNS IN THE MLB



## TOP TWEET



Nathan Thornhill  
@NathanThornhill

“I don't watch scary movies without a glass of milk, it comforts me @coreyknebel29”

## SPORTS BRIEFLY

### Kenny Vaccaro to attend 2013 NFL Draft

The NFL announced on Wednesday a list of players that will attend the 2013 draft beginning on April 25. Longhorns safety Kenny Vaccaro is on that list.

Vaccaro had perhaps his best season as a Longhorn in 2012 in which he recorded a career-high 107 tackles in addition to two interceptions and two forced fumbles. Vaccaro was named as a first-team All-America in 2012, as well being named to the first-team All-Big 12 team.

The safety appeared in 51 career games for Texas with 32 starts in which he posted 264 tackles, two sacks, five interceptions and four forced fumbles.

### Sam Hurd pleads guilty to drug charges

ESPN reported on Thursday evening that former NFL wide receiver Sam Hurd pled guilty to trying to buy cocaine and marijuana to set up a drug-distribution network.

Hurd, 27, faces a minimum 10-year sentence for conspiracy to possess cocaine and marijuana with intent to distribute. He was arrested in December 2011 in Chicago, while playing for the Chicago Bears, after allegedly accepting a kilogram of cocaine from an undercover officer.

Hurd played college football at Northern Illinois and then five seasons with the Dallas Cowboys before signing a contract with the Bears in 2011 that was reportedly worth up to \$5.15 million.

—Matt Warden

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Lewis looks to become go-to guy, Longhorns hope for better future

By Nick Cremona

For Rick Barnes, the end of the year means putting a 16-18 record behind his Longhorns and shifting focus to the future. It also means figuring out who's going to be on his team.

Thursday night at the Longhorns' basketball banquet, Barnes addressed the state of flux around the status of Myck Kabongo, who says he hasn't decided whether to

return for his junior season or head to the NBA.

“Our whole feeling was, in [Myck's] mind, he wanted this to be his last year,” Barnes said before Thursday night's team banquet. “He might be decided. Who knows, he might have decided a long time ago.”

Barnes will have a lighter load on hand for offseason workouts after Jaylen Bond and Sheldon McClellan both announced plans to transfer. Julien Lewis, a junior in the fall, is still contemplating

his future. Should Lewis stay with the Longhorns, rather than transfer or test his game overseas, he'd likely be the top scorer.

“I think I can be that go-to guy and play more of my game,” Lewis said. “I just need to be more aggressive, attack the rim more and not settle for jump shots.”

Teammate Ioannis Papaetrou is counting on Lewis to return.

FUTURE *continues on page 9*



# FUTURE

continues from page 8

“Julien is a great guy, and his decision is about what’s best for him and his family,” Papapetrou said. “Right now he’s just thinking and sometimes he’s not with us in practice but I’m confident he will be with us next year.”

If Lewis does not return to Texas for his junior season, the Longhorns are left with seven returning scholarship players. It’s not starting from scratch, but Texas faces another uphill battle in order to finish among the Big 12’s best. Texas finished seventh in the conference this year with a 7-11 record in the Big 12.

“Next year won’t get here soon enough,” Barnes said. “There wasn’t any momentum or consistency this year, but I can tell you there has been a lot more energy surrounding practices and workouts this spring.”

The player who might make a big jump forward is point guard Javan Felix, who



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan file photo

Guard Julien Lewis will likely be the go-to player if he decides to return to Texas to help the team rebuild next season.

logged a healthy amount of minutes as a freshman in place of the suspended Kabongo. Next year he’s expected to get more reps and to produce better results.

“When Javan came in for Myck at the beginning of the year he didn’t know left from right,” Barnes said. “Even though he’s a tough kid, he felt the weight of the world.”

Felix remains firm in his belief that this Texas team can make a return to the NCAA Tournament, which he admitted was a tough event to

watch from home rather than competing in.

“We owe it to all the guys that came before us,” Felix said. “Coach Barnes wants me to work on getting my shot up quicker, to play better defense and just be a better point guard. This year there were times when we thought we were working hard, but you look back and realize it wasn’t hard enough. That’s what we’re going to be able to tell the new guys coming in this off-season — work harder than you ever have before.”

# TEAM

continues from page 8

She also said that Addison is extremely coachable during practices and matches, and that her feedback has been beneficial to the coaching process. Addison has a similar admiration of her coach, who she credits as being the person who has helped her develop into a better player the most.

# KANSAS

continues from page 8

night, going 3-for-4 with a career-high three RBIs. But success was not just limited to the usual suspects. Everyone in the Texas lineup reached base with all but two starters registering a hit.

Sophomore Parker French is expected to start on the mound this

“Many people have had an influence on me from the beginning,” Addison said, “but Patty really pushes me and does not let me cruise through practice.”

Her teammates have also been a wonder to her development as a team player. Despite not knowing anyone before she arrived, Addison received everyone’s help along the way.

Sophomore Noel Scott, Addison’s doubles partner and roommate at Texas,

helps set up Addison for her impressive singles outings because of her own aggression in doubles. As a result, the two have shared a close bond when it comes to talking tennis and going about their days.

As the season continues, Addison said that it will be important for her to stay focused in practice and go out and play at her best for the team, win or lose. That alone will determine how successful her first season will be.

weekend. French, who dropped to 3-2 after the series against Oklahoma last weekend, currently has a 2.32 ERA with 24 strikeouts. Sophomore Dillon Peters will likely start Game 2 on Saturday with junior Nathan Thornhill finishing out on Sunday afternoon.

Both Peters and Thornhill had strong showings in their last outings. Peters threw seven no-hit innings in last Saturday’s matchup

and was named the Big 12 Pitcher of the Week for his efforts. In Game 3 against the Sooners, Thornhill fanned a career-best seven batters while allowing only one unearned run in seven innings.

The Jayhawks (20-12, 5-4) defeated Oklahoma State 2-1 this past weekend at home before winning their midweek games 8-3 and 10-1, over Iowa and Missouri Valley College, respectively.

## MEN’S GOLF PREVIEW | JACOB MARTELLA

The Longhorns will participate this weekend in their final tuneup before the Big 12 Championship as they host the Morris Williams Intercollegiate tournament at the University of Texas Golf Club.

Texas is coming off of its third win of the season after taking the team title by two strokes in the Augusta State Invitational this past weekend. The win helped move the Longhorns back up into third place in the Golfweek/Sagarin rankings this week. Freshman Brandon Stone, who placed in the top five for the fifth time this season last week, held on to his No. 2 position in the

### MORRIS WILLIAMS INTERCOLLEGIATE



Date: Saturday  
Time: All day  
Where: Austin



Brandon Stone  
Freshman

individual rankings.

The field for the Morris Williams Intercollegiate is littered with Big 12 teams, including Baylor, No. 14 Oklahoma State, Texas Tech and No. 7 TCU. No. 4 New Mexico comes in as the second highest ranked team behind Texas. UNLV, who beat Texas in the Southern Highlands Collegiate Masters in March,

will also compete in the tournament.

The tournament is the final one for the Longhorns before they compete in the Big 12 Championship tournament on April 22-24 in Hutchinson, Kansas. Texas will be seeking its first conference title since 2004.

## WOMEN’S GOLF PREVIEW | JEREMY THOMAS

Only one regular season tournament remains for the No. 23 Longhorns as they seek their fourth top five finish in five spring events at this weekend’s PING/ASU Invitational in Tempe, Arizona.

The only spring tournament the team did not finish in the top five was February’s rain-shortened Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate Golf Tournament when the team ended that tournament in ninth place.

Senior Desiree Dubreuil has started all seven events the team participated in this 2012-13 season. She leads the Longhorns with a 74.90 scoring average and is tied with senior Madison Pressel and

sophomore Bertine Strauss for individual low rounds of 69 in a single round. Dubreuil, Pressel and Strauss will play in the PING/ASU Invitational alongside senior Katelyn Sepmoree and true freshman Natalie Karcher.

Once again the Longhorns will face tough competition in the tournament as the field is loaded with 11 teams — including themselves — ranked in the Golf World/Women’s Golf Coaching Association Top 25 poll. Competition includes the top ranked USC Trojans, No. 2 Duke, No. 3 Alabama, No. 7 Arizona, No. 9 Washington, No. 11 UCLA, No. 13 Arizona State, No. 15 UC Davis, No. 16 Stanford and



Desiree Dubreuil  
Senior

No. 25 Texas A&M.

The tournament will be played at Karsten Golf Course, considered by many as the “Home of Champions” because of the Arizona State’s nine national championships, seven of which came from the women’s golf program.

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REMEMBER!

you saw it in the Texan

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAFFEINE MAKES ME HYPER Solution: 6 letters

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N R E C D S E V A E L O T S S  
T A R T A D N A E B F T N O P  
O N V I R F I R N F E E U O R  
L T O V E E F C E X T A O B E  
E I U E K U M E T N I S M R S  
R C S A A S G O I I Y E A E S  
A H S G W P N I R N V K T P O  
N O E E A U A N T S E E A Y E  
C C L R J C L S W A P R A H S  
E O T E U P E O N P F A D O S  
K L S T M E R M O O D Y S U B  
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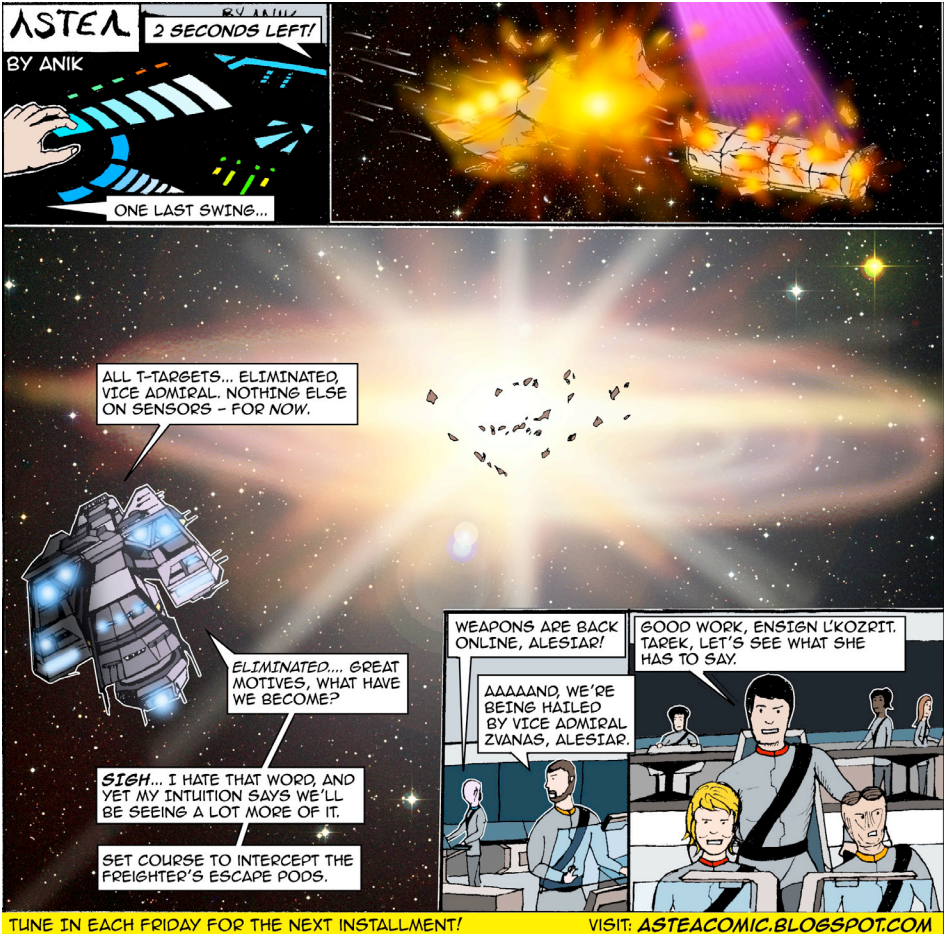
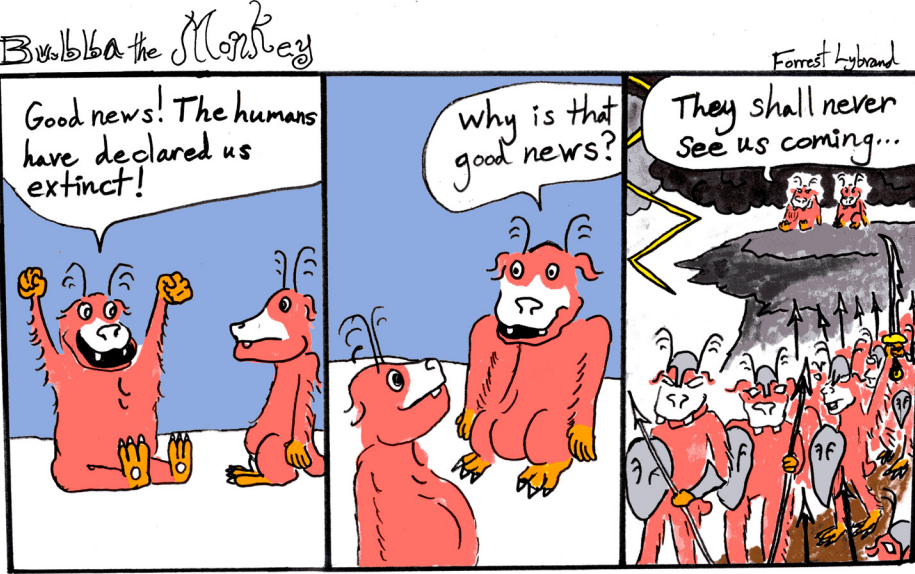
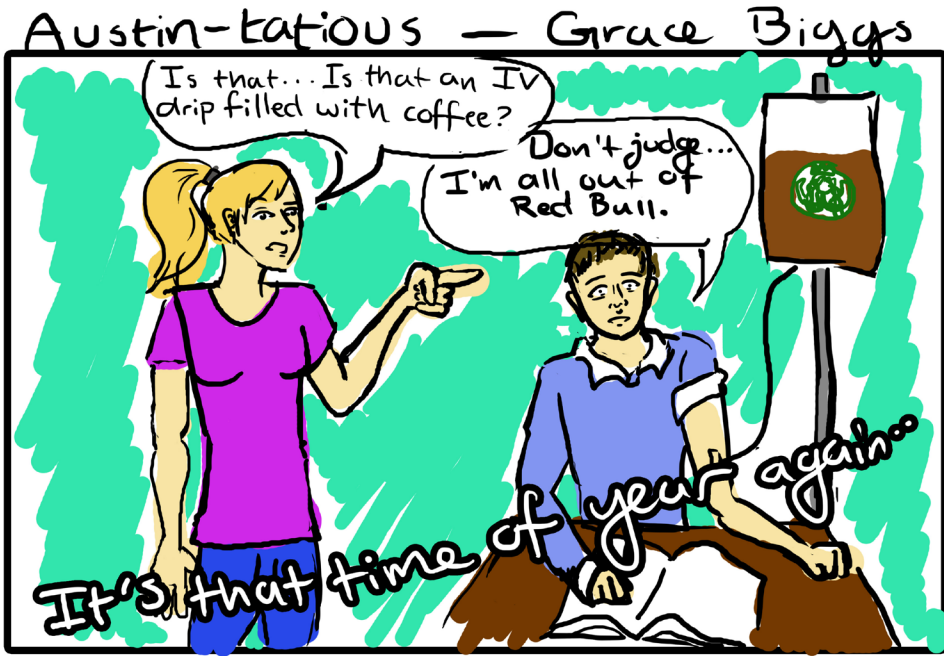
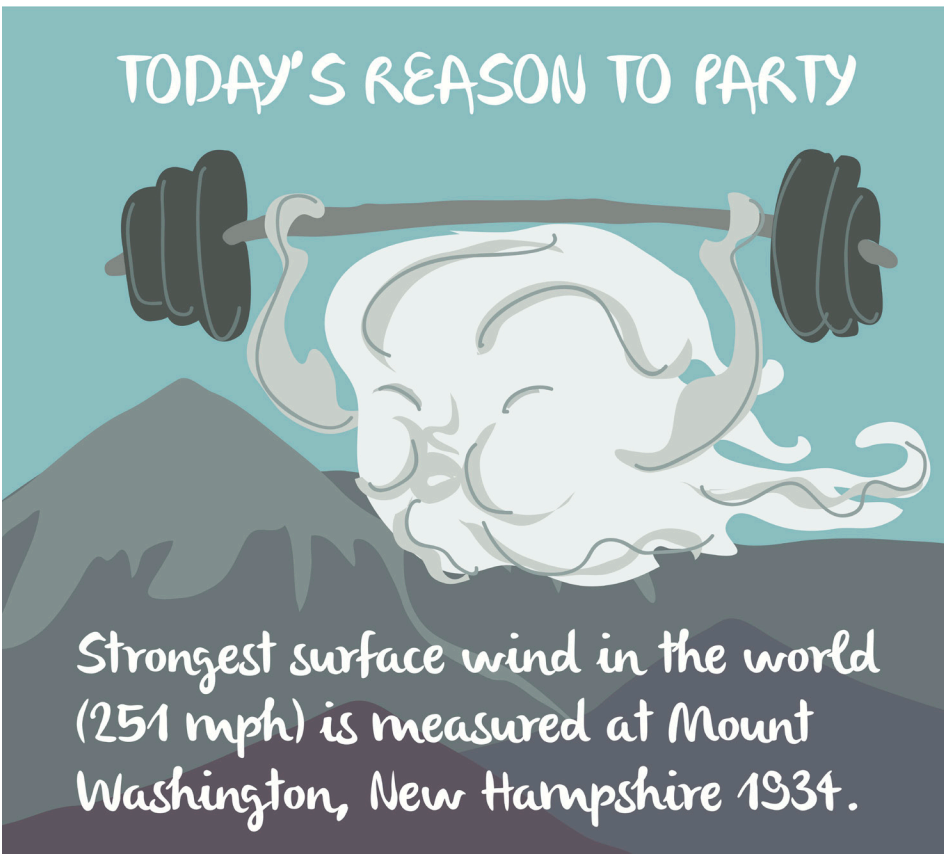
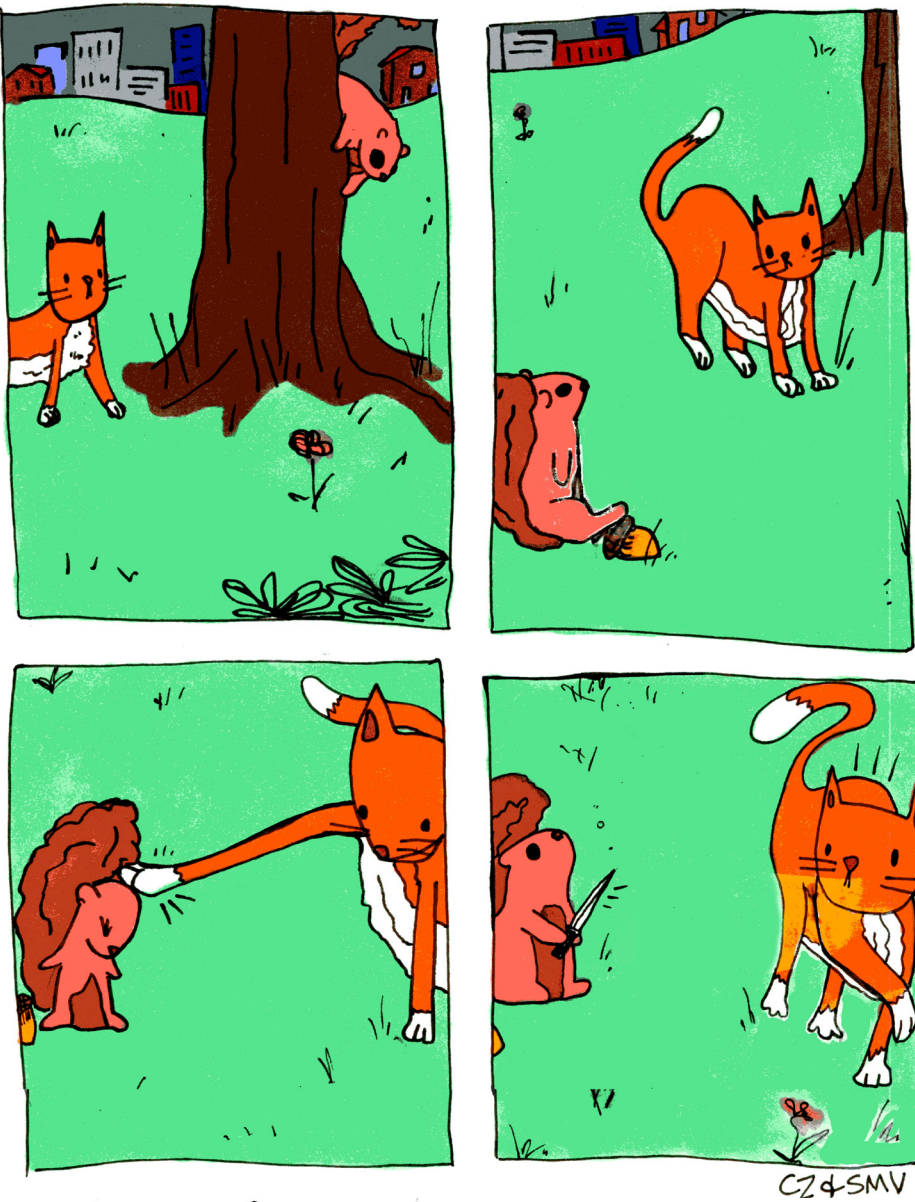
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Yesterday's Answer: Potholes

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SUDOKUFORYOU

	8	1			7	3		
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Today's solution will appear here tomorrow

2	9	8	5	6	3	4	7	1
1	6	4	2	9	7	8	3	5
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9	8	5	7	2	6	3	1	4
6	7	1	3	4	8	5	2	9
3	4	2	9	5	1	6	8	7
8	2	6	4	7	9	1	5	3
4	3	7	6	1	5	2	9	8
5	1	9	8	3	2	7	4	6

The New York Times Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Terminal cases
  - 8 Something to do experiments in
  - 15 One of the Big Three in credit reports
  - 16 Eradicate
  - 17 Baking session
  - 18 Old West German moniker
  - 19 Goal of a 17-Across
  - 20 Off the rack
  - 22 Jewish rite
  - 24 Tramp
  - 25 \_\_\_\_ Hawkins Day
  - 26 Bald Mountain's range
  - 28 Often-affected outburst
  - 30 Time to go
  - 31 Navigator who named Natal
  - 33 Nice things to be massaged
- DOWN**
- 35 Adoption option
  - 36 "The Whiffenpoof Song" ending
  - 39 Slush-pile pile: Abbr.
  - 42 \_\_\_\_ cellar
  - 43 Imitated a wound-up toy
  - 47 Schlemiel's cry
  - 49 Providers of football game coverage?
  - 51 Title woman in a J. P. Donleavy novel
  - 52 Big name in water filtration
  - 54 Charge
  - 56 Shot after a break?
  - 57 Bar glasses?
  - 60 Goal
  - 61 Recreating, maybe
  - 62 It smells on a bug
  - 64 More dear
  - 65 Sponge
- DOWN**
- 1 One of a tight pair
  - 2 Some zoo attractions
  - 3 Really going after, with "for"
  - 4 It was ceded to Brit. in the Treaty of Utrecht
  - 5 Way off
  - 6 Racetrack array
  - 7 Don't hold your breath
  - 8 Star of 2009's Fame Ball Tour
  - 9 Assist with a job
  - 10 Parts of the Big Apple
  - 11 Try to scratch
  - 12 Greasy, perhaps
  - 13 Subject of the 2009 biography "Puttin' on the Ritz"
  - 14 What "they say our love won't pay," in "I Got You Babe"
  - 21 Ruthless
  - 23 Try
  - 27 Latin trio member
  - 29 Behave with respect to
  - 32 Small cells
  - 34 Take the junk out?
  - 37 Post masters?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	O	T	A	T	O			P	E	P	P	E	R						
O	P	E	N	E	R	A		D	E	C	A	R	L	O					
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E	L	I	S	K	I	L		T	I	R	A	N	E						
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Edited by Will Shortz No. 0308

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PUZZLE BY PAULA GAMACHE

38 There's nothing above it

45 Eatery seen in a "Manhattan" scene

55 Construction piece with a mate

39 Icing supervisor?

46 Light fright?

58 See 59-Down

40 Kia model

48 Part of many a grid

59 With 58-Down, drop by

41 One going over telemarketing lines

50 Torpedo layer

63 Command level: Abbr.

44 Ruthless sort

53 Yawning

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MOVIE REVIEW | ‘TRANCE’



Photo courtesy of Fox Searchlight

Simon (James McAvoy) is having a rough day in the visually stunning but narratively frustrating “Trance.”

Film brings flash, no substance

By Alex Williams

“Trance,” the new film from “127 Hours” director Danny Boyle, exudes pure, unflappable confidence in every single frame. The neo-noir bristles with the purpose of a practiced storyteller throwing every trick in the book at the audience, but beneath its puffed out chest, “Trance”’s story is frustratingly empty-headed. Impressive sequences and performances are plentiful, but they’re ultimately in service of an inert narrative that never evolves beyond empty flashiness.

An exhilarating opening sequence lays out the methodology and procedure for stealing works of art, while introducing Simon (James McAvoy), a gallery employee in charge of protecting paintings in the event of a robbery. A vicious blow to the head from merciless thief Franck (Vincent Cassel) wrecks Simon’s memory of the theft of a particularly valuable piece of art. Unfortunately for Simon, he and Franck were working together on the robbery, and now he has no idea where he stashed the painting. Their attempts to recover his memory leads Simon to Elizabeth (Rosario Dawson), an alluring hypnotherapist.

Once “Trance” dives into Simon’s fractured memory, the film operates on a constantly shifting level of reality, reflected in Boyle’s increasingly

oblique direction. Boyle’s imagery has overwhelmed and derailed films before, and his frustrating habit of bifurcating images past the point of clarity verges on indulgence. However, when he’s able to rein himself in a bit, Boyle works with Rick Smith’s rhythmic score and Jon Harris’ precisely timed editing to create a disorienting but compelling visual palette.

“Trance”’s story picks up a reckless momentum throughout, tossing out twists gleefully. As we draw closer to the conclusion, it becomes ever clearer that “Trance” has gnarled a fairly rote linear narrative into a convoluted knot. Once the film’s mysteries have finally been untangled, “Trance” hinges on a few very specifically timed events. Even though Boyle’s neo-noir never fails to intrigue, it’s ultimately an empty shell game, a story that exists simply because of the way the plot manipulates itself.

Even though James McAvoy is presented in promotional materials as the hero of “Trance,” his character’s inner thought process is a big part of “Trance”’s endgame, which means McAvoy is stranded in a script that never brings his character into focus until the film’s finale. He’s thoroughly adequate throughout, doing the best he can without tipping Boyle’s hand too early.

Meanwhile, Rosario Dawson emerges as the film’s stealthy protagonist, turning



TRANCE

Director: Danny Boyle  
Genre: Crime Drama  
Runtime: 101 minutes

in a memorable, confident performance. She nails the soothing cadence of a hypnotist, and the film’s early scenes are bolstered by Dawson’s ability to communicate multitudes with a simple glance or expression. Even more impressive is how comfortably she slips into the skin of a femme fatale, exuding an effortlessly sexy self-possession that almost anchors the ridiculous contortions in the third act.

“Trance” is presented as an exciting, stylish crime thriller, but the many shortcomings of its markedly unusual premise become apparent once you start to mull it over. Danny Boyle remains a director capable of great sequences and frustrating indulgences, often all at once. “Trance” is a work of poise, and even though it ends up dissipating into nothingness once its cards are on the table, it is still fun to watch Boyle shuffle the deck.

TECH

continues from page 12

Current owners, however, will continue to receive updates, according to the company’s CEO, Simon Dawlat. This recent withdrawal represents a broader crackdown on violations of Apple’s historically stringent developer policies. Apps that advertise or promote other apps will also be taken down if this feature is not changed, since they threaten the Apple Store’s legitimacy as the proprietor.

“Far Cry 3” goes retro

Filled with inane references to the 1980s and an apt retro soundtrack, “Far Cry 3 Blood Dragon” is a new downloadable content package from

Ubisoft that will be available May 1. Using the same graphics engine from “Far Cry 3,” this new content will have gamers play through a sci-fi story set in the distant future of 2007. Armed with ninja stars and photon blasters, players will venture through a dystopian nuclear wasteland with the hopes of finally disarming the oppressing enemy. While it bears the same name as the original game, “Far Cry 3 Blood Dragon” will be in no way related to its proprietary game title, simply representing Ubisoft’s interest in branching off to something new.

Shodan Search Engine

From traffic cameras to nuclear power plant controls, the Shodan Search Engine is capable of finding

any hardware that is connected to the internet. For devices that have default passwords, such as “1234” or “password,” this site even allows users to connect and use them. While this search engine has rather dangerous implications for people with harmful intentions, it may help improve online security in the next few years by highlighting technical failures of lazy companies. As the Shodan Search Engine demonstrates, IT departments and private internet users skimp on even basic levels of security because they believe that there is safety in numbers or “security by obscurity.” But Shodan now makes it possible to specifically search for these vulnerable devices all over the world.

SHAVE

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St. Baldrick’s Foundation, which focuses on promoting research for childhood cancer, and she has urged friends and family to donate to her cause so she can reach her donation goal of \$5,000.

“Shavees put themselves in a patient’s shoes,” S.M.I.L.E President Katie O’Halloran said.

Lawrence said that by giving up her hair, she will be giving a sense of community to those affected by cancer, especially those singled out for their illness. She has watched her grandfather, her

grandmother, her aunt and a young family friend battle not only the physical effects of cancer, but its social impact as well.

One of Lawrence’s main supporters also happens to be her inspiration to fight for this cause.

Moon Morris, her aunt, was planning to start a family with her husband when she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Miraculously, Morris survived and was able to conceive Lawrence’s two cousins.

Morris has given Lawrence support and donations and pushed her to be steadfast in her efforts to end cancer.

Lawrence said her mother and father were not surprised to hear she was shaving her head. Her father, a math teacher, had his head shaved by his school principal in front of the entire student body to support Lawrence’s endeavor.

Her young brother, Trevor, on the other hand, is not as convinced.

“After Sian shaved her

PINES

continues from page 12

extension of “Drive,” another film where Gosling played a man trying to provide for a woman and her son by stepping outside the boundaries of the law. But “The Place Beyond the Pines” doesn’t have the narrative or aesthetic control “Drive” did and ends up suffering by comparison. Nonetheless, Gosling has developed a knack for evoking the anti-hero and painting him in a distinctly human light, and his performance is the best in the film.

As things progress, “The Place Beyond the Pines” focuses on Bradley Cooper’s character, drawing thematic connections that it never fully fleshes out, preferring to illustrate its heady ideas through tossed-off lines of dialogue so it can explore a completely extraneous story of police corruption. Cooper is a solid performer, but his character is totally vanilla, and Cooper struggles to bring shading to a script uninterested in ambiguity.

Once the film skips ahead a few years to focus on Luke and Avery’s sons,

who become fast friends and faster enemies, Cianfrance is working completely and totally out of his depth, building toward a cluttered climax that’s driven by spotty motivation. Dane DeHaan plays the son of Gosling’s character, and the script hands him a series of bizarre decisions that make him a series of plot points searching for a character, creating a void of personality that DeHaan can’t quite fill.

“The Place Beyond the Pines” strives to be an epic tale of fathers and sons, but its thematic webbing is tenuously strung, and the film too often seems to be grappling with themes that are simply out of its depth. It’s hard to fault a film for overreaching, but “The Place Beyond the Pines” makes the mistake of warping its plot in an attempt to make its message more clear, something that strains the storytelling to the point of sloppiness.

Despite the multiple shortcomings of his script, Cianfrance continues to display remarkable

directorial skill, striking an incredible level of intimacy between his actors and his camera. He pushes in as far as he can, bringing us uncomfortably close to the people he’s asking us to sympathize with. Even moments like an intense car chase become personal, visceral experiences thanks to the power that Cianfrance brings to every frame. The film is sharply edited by Jim Helton and Ron Patane, and Cianfrance has several stunningly executed sequences under his belt, especially a lengthy opening shot that instills an innocuous carnival setting with a sense of dread that he sustains throughout the entire film.

Even though “The Place Beyond the Pines” can’t quite fulfill its thematic ambitions, Cianfrance remains a director worth watching. Hopefully he writes a few more drafts of his next screenplay before deeming it filmable, but his directorial work exhibits a keen eye and an admirable bravado that is hard to fault.



Photo courtesy of Focus Features

Luke (Ryan Gosling) and Romina (Eva Mendes) reunite under unusual circumstances in “The Place Beyond the Pines.”

SHOW

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The hangar is filled with a small array of old combat and training planes, some of which have been restored and others that are still in the process of being rebuilt.

Tully offered us a rare opportunity to fly inside and co-pilot the small SNJ-4 aircraft, which was built in 1943 and served as the final training plane for Navy pilots preparing for deployment.

As I stepped into the second seat in the aircraft, Tully walked me through the pre-flight procedures before encountering some technical difficulties. He taxied the plane back to the hangar, and a few members of the squadron gathered around with a ladder to help fix the aircraft.

“Because we get to work on the airplanes and fly the airplanes, it gives us a little bit better sense of what those guys were dealing with,” aviation enthusiast Michael Kilgore said.

After a few minutes of fiddling with the nose of the aircraft, the World War II trainer plane was ready for flight.

Having never flown

in anything other than a commercial jet before, the sensation of being in the air in such a small aircraft was new to me. Tully narrated the entire flight, offering scenarios the men who flied the plane in 1943 might have encountered.

I expected the ride to feel similar to a roller coaster, but it was actually very smooth. At one point, Tully’s fuzzy voice came through the headset I was required to wear to let me know that I now had control of the aircraft.

After only a few moments of having control, it was easy to see why the members of the Commemorative Air Force were so dedicated to preserving these machines.

The steady buzz of the plane was filling the air, and instead of sounding loud and menacing, it served as a not-so-subtle reminder that we were flying a few hundred feet above the ground.

“It’s music,” Kilgore said. “It’s just a different kind of music.”

The squadron was at the hangar that Saturday to

THE BLUEBONNET AIR SHOW

When: Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.  
Cost: \$15 for adults

continue preparations for the annual Bluebonnet Air Show, which will take place Saturday, April 13 from noon to 4 p.m.

The air show is a four-hour display of the squadron’s aircraft alongside visiting aircraft from other groups. The show includes a series of acrobatics, and a pyrotechnic display from The Blastards, a pyrotechnic group.

“We’ll also have some reenactors here that will be in full World War II regalia,” Col. Ed Holley said. “Some of the guys really get into it and come in character.”

Holley said the show offers something for people of any age, but to him, the most important aspect is the history.

“The whole purpose of this is to get the history out there so you don’t repeat it,” Holley said. “And wars are things you don’t want to repeat.”



Like it or not, hair is so important to girls. Maybe that’s why giving it up makes such an impact.

— Keri Lawrence, biochemistry freshman

bald in just a few short days has finally hit her. She mentioned that not being able to stroke her hair when she’s bored will be what affects her most.

“Like it or not, hair is so important to girls,” Lawrence said. “Maybe that’s why giving it up makes such an impact.”

Lawrence knows that there is not much she can personally do to stop cancer. But after the disease put her family to the test, she believed she owed it to them to do her part. She and more than 150 others aim to prove that pediatric cancer patients are not alone.

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CAMPUS



Yamel Thompson | Daily Texan Staff

Biochemistry freshman Keri Lawrence will be shaving her hair in support of fighting pediatric cancer at Brave the Shave. The event is hosted by S.M.I.L.E. with proceeds going toward St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Students shave in solidarity

S.M.I.L.E.'s Brave the Shave event unites students for cancer research

By Willa Young

Keri Lawrence never really had a place to call home. She grew up with a mother in the Coast Guard and a father in the Navy. She had to say goodbye to new friends

year after year and start fresh in a strange place. It's hard to imagine home sweet home when you have lived in California, Seattle, Japan and Austin. As cliché as it sounds, the truth is, her family was the only comfort zone she

could rely on, but when cancer hit three of her loved ones, she saw that comfort zone narrow. Last year, Lawrence's younger sister, Sian, shocked the family when she decided to shave her head for UT's first Brave the Shave event, hosted by Students Making Impacts Through Love and Empathy. One year later, Lawrence,

a biochemistry sophomore, has decided to do the same. She will celebrate her birthday Saturday, April 13, by shaving her head to fight pediatric cancer. "Brave the Shave proves that an illness does not define these children," S.M.I.L.E. social chair, Nguyen Dinh said. Lawrence feels angry that the outward appearance of

cancer patients who lose their hair in treatment creates an entirely new identity for them centered around the disease. Lawrence was wandering aimlessly around the tables of the West Mall when she spotted a sign for S.M.I.L.E., the same organization that inspired her tween sister to sacrifice her hair just before starting

high school. She decided to sign up. "After the first meeting, I was hooked," Lawrence said. "I just stumbled upon it, and now I can't imagine college without S.M.I.L.E." So far, Lawrence has raised almost \$2,000 for S.M.I.L.E. and Brave the Shave. All of her donations will go to the

SHAVE continues on page 11

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Affordable 3-D pen lets art break free from page

By Stuart Railey

Thanks to tech entrepreneurs Peter Dilworth and Max Bogue, consumers will no longer have to be confined to a mere two dimensions when writing down their ideas. With the help of the "3Doodler," a device that melts ABS plastic that is commonly used in 3-D printers, pen-wielders will be able to draw in any direction they choose. The heated end of the pen liquefies and rapidly cools the plastic to make this possible. The "3Doodler" is expected to be available for approximately \$99 next holiday season.

**Google & AT&T Fiber Cable** Within the past week, both Google and AT&T have committed to building two respective fiber networks in the city of Austin. While the companies have asserted that this competition will benefit consumers in the long run,

reality has yet to set in. Before a cable is to be laid down, Google and AT&T will use customer demand to determine which streets will have access to their new services. However, since the demand will now be split between two separate companies, this discernment process may become more opaque, leaving interested customers without access. Similarly, these services will face challenges in targeting lower-income parts of the city where landlords and rented properties are more common. **Apple Ban** "AppGratis," a free application on the iTunes App Store with approximately 12 million users, was forcibly removed from Apple's website last weekend. The app, which helps consumers find other free apps and price-deals on iTunes, will no longer be available for download.

TECH continues on page 11

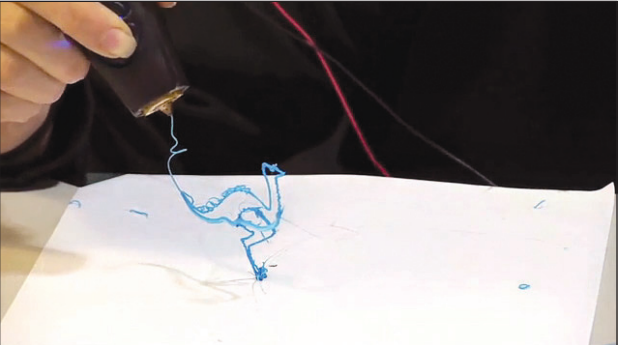


Photo courtesy of WobbleWorks LLC

With the new "3Doodler," writers will no longer be confined to a mere two dimensions when presenting their ideas.

EVENT PREVIEW

Air show brings history to life

By Hannah Smothers

Just northwest of Austin lies Burnet, a small and relatively quiet city. Churches dot the highways, Dairy Queen signs illuminate the sky and the thick stillness of a rural Texas town can be felt like syrup in the air around you. The only interruption to the otherwise serene atmosphere is when Col. Chuck Tully flies a restored U.S. Navy training plane over Highway 281. The buzz of the 70-year-old engine fills the air and the brightly painted tail weaves a technicolor trail through the sky, much like it did when it was used to prepare World War II Navy pilots



Col. Chuck Tully, a member of the Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force, shows a restored U.S. Navy training plane in Burnet. Shweta Gulati Daily Texan Staff

for departure. Tully is a member of the Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force, a group of men and women dedicated to collecting and restoring

combat aircraft and maintaining a museum to display memorabilia to the public. On this particular Saturday afternoon, Tully and a few of his fellow

SHOW continues on page 11

MOVIE REVIEW | 'THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES'

'Blue Valentine' follow-up misses mark

By Alex Williams

Three years after the devastating "Blue Valentine" garnered an Oscar nomination for Michelle Williams' performance, director Derek Cianfrance returns with the overly ambitious "The Place Beyond the Pines." Reaching brilliant highs and baffling lows, Cianfrance's follow-up is a thematically muddled trilogy of increasingly

uninteresting tragedies. Every piece of marketing for "The Place Beyond the Pines" has Ryan Gosling front and center, and for the opening stretch of the film, Gosling gives a commanding performance as Luke, a carníe who reunites with an old fling (Eva Mendes) only to learn he has a son. Luke immediately quits his job to take care of his newfound family, a pursuit that leads him to become a bank robber. Eventually and

inevitably, his path tragically crosses with noble cop Avery (Bradley Cooper), kicking off a series of events spanning decades. Gosling has quietly been carving out a niche in modern crime drama as the ultra-competent, ultra-badass man of few words, and "The Place Beyond the Pines" certainly doesn't push him out of his comfort zone. This actually feels like a fairly natural



**THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES** Director: Derek Cianfrance Genre: Drama Runtime: 140 minutes PINES continues on page 11